

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00945 141636 Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4309

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJECT: MINTOFF ADDRESSES MLP CONFERENCE

REF: VALLETTA 0881

1. ADDRESSING THE MLP ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE, MINTOFF SAID THAT IF MALTA WANTS TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY 1979 " WE MUST NOT DEPEND ON FOREIGNERS TO DO THE JOB FOR US. THOUGH FOREIGN INVESTORS WILL BE WELCOME IN MALTA, NO SERIOUS NATION WOULD LEAVE ITS DESTINY IN THE HANDS OF OTHERS. THE MALTESE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR THE FOREIGNERS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND BE CONTENT WITH INVESTORS GIVING US THE WAGES AND TAKING THE PROFITS."

2. " THE GOM WILL PROVIDE ALL THE CAPITAL NEEDED, BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW THE MONEY TO BE SQUANDERED. WE WILL USE THE MONEY ON PROJECTS THAT MAKE MORE MONEY." HE SAID SOME INDUSTRIAL-ISTS (MALTESE) COMPLAIN ABOUT LACK OF COOPERATION, " BUT IF THEY
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00945 141636 Z

TELL ME THEY WANT TO BUILD EIGHT FACTORIES, I WOULD MEET THEM TOMORROW AND DRIVE THEM TO THE FACTORIES MYSELF." BUT, HE EXPLAINED, " SOME SO- CALL INDUSTRIALISTS (AGAIN MALTESE) EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO, TO SELL THE PRODUCTS FOR THEM, AND DO ALL THE WORK FOR THEM."

3. TURNING TO THE PIONEER CORPS, MINTOFF SAID THAT HE EXPECTS ENLISTMENT TO REACH 4,000 (NOW ABOUT 3,000). " SOME PEOPLE MAKE FUN AND TELL THEM THEY HAVE UNIFORMS BUT CAN' T SHOOT. WE WILL TEACH THEM TO SHOOT, BUT (JOKINGLY) I DOUBT THAT THEY WILL SHOOT VERY MUCH. I DON' T WANT TO SQUANDER MONEY ON BULLETS, BUT WE WILL FIND WHO IS READY TO GIVE US THE BULLETS."

4. HE STRESSED THAT " THE PIONEERS WILL BE WORKING FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS, AND WILL INITALLY BE EMPLOYED ON THE PORT, AIR-PORT, AFFORESTATION, WATER AND SIMILAR PROJECTS."

5. COMMENT: MINTOFF' S STATEMENTS ARE OBVIOUS ADMISSION OF HIS FAILURE ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS, AND ATTEMPT PLACE BLAME ON MALTESE INDUSTRIALISTS FOR LACK OF NEW DOMESTIC INVESTMENT. ONCE AGAIN, HIS REMARKS GO AGAINST WHAT HE CLAIMS HE WANTS, I. E., NEW INVESTMENTS AND NEW JOBS. GETZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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